

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

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TOPIC

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Recruiting for the VP

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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REF: Recruiting for the VP

Since the new political situation demands increased preparations for the defense of the achievements of the GDR, the Politburo passed important resolutions in March and April 1955 concerning comprehensive recruiting campaigns for our armed forces, particularly for the KVP. After a slow start these recruiting campaigns have borne fruit, but in two respects they are open to criticism:

1. Instead of carrying out convincing propaganda activities among the prospective KVP candidates, the recruiting commissions have tried to bully them into the KVP.
2. The recruiting commissions have done no more than routine work. Innumerable recruiting commissions had the embittered youths led out before them like criminals before a judge. It goes without saying that such methods will yield negative rather than positive results. This is evidenced by the fact that whole groups of youths in their bitterness went over to the enemy. The SED Central Committee condemns sharply such methods which help the enemy rather than the SED. In order to guarantee that in the future the recruiting campaigns will be carried out more successfully, the SED Central Committee has taken the following steps:
 1. In each Kreis, all members of VP recruiting commissions, as well as all party and mass organization functionaries will attend a special one-month training course. During this time all recruiting activities will be suspended.
 2. The aim of these courses is to liquidate the present recruiting methods such as bullying, pressure and blackmailing, immediately and altogether.
 3. All recruiting quotas will be abolished without delay.
 4. Since in many cases the party organizations have passed on their responsibility for an effective defense propaganda to the KVP-officers, who at present carry out propaganda campaigns for the KVP in the factories of the GDR, all members of the KVP will be withdrawn from factories and administrations.

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Comment. This directive confirms previous reports on the KVP recruiting campaign which was launched on 1 April 1955. There are no recruiting quotas at present

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